[15th February 1958

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: (a) & (b) The Factories Act, 1948, is applicable to beedi factories wherein 10 or more persons with power or 20 or more persons without power are employed.

Sree Rama Industries

* 149 *Q.*—SRI S. PAKKIRISAMI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) whether the brass foundry known as Sree Rama Industries, Innamboor, Kumbakonam, has been closed recently by the management without notice; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to reopen it?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: (a) The management declared a lock-out on 12th December 1957.

(b) The Labour Officer, Tiruchirappalli, enquired into the matter and brought about a settlement. The factory was reopened on 21st December 1957.

Prime Minister's Visit to Madras

* 150 *Q.*—SRI T. S. RAMASWAMY PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Transport buses damaged during the disturbances on the day of the visit of the Prime Minister to the Madras City recently; and

(b) the total loss to the Transport Department?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: (a) Thirty-three.

(b) About Rs. 50,000.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM: Sir, was the responsibility fixed upon the culprits who were responsible for the burning of buses?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, this question relates to the loss and I am prepared to speak with regard to the financial loss.

Adulteration of Ammonium Sulphate

* 152 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken to prevent the adulteration of ammonium sulphate with sodium chloride?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: Adulteration of ammonium sulphate is an offence punishable under clause 13 (iii) of the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1957, which is in force in this State from 1st September 1957. Some cases of suspected adulteration of ammonium sulphate with sodium chloride have been brought to the notice of the Director of Agriculture and he has issued instructions to his subordinates in charge of the enforcement of the Fertiliser (Control) Order to intensify inspection of fertilisers kept

15th February 1958]

for sale and also to take samples of fertilisers and send them for analysis. Steps will be taken to have the offenders prosecuted in a court of law.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMY PILLAI : What is meant by " Sodium Chloride " in common parlance?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sodium Chloride is nothing else but common salt.

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Sri N. Marudachalam to ask a private notice question. The Hon. Minister for Industries will answer it.

Closure of shifts in a number of Textile Mills in Coimbatore district

SRI N. MARUDACHALAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to make a statement regarding the closure of shifts in the weaving departments of a number of textile mills, such as Kaleswara, Ranga Vilas and Sarada Mills in the Coimbatore district by which many workers have been thrown out of employment?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : On 19th November 1957, 185 workers at the Kaleswarar Mills, Limited, Coimbatore, struck work protesting against the lay-off of the workers in the Weaving Department. The management represented that due to uneconomical working of the Weaving Department and accumulation of stocks of cloth bales, they were compelled to reduce the number of workers in the Weaving Department. The workers of the two shifts were asked to come for work on alternate days and they were laid off on alternate days, with compensation.

The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, held discussions with the parties and advised the management to give work to the workers for three days in a week consecutively and lay them off for the remaining three days instead of laying them off on alternate days. The parties agreed. The management accordingly notified to the workers that the first shift workers will be given work on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and the second shift workers on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 25th November 1957.

The workers resumed work on 21st November 1957.

No representations were received in respect of Ranga Vilas Mill or Sarada Mills in the Coimbatore District.

MR. SPEAKER : I now take up the question of Sri T. S. Ramaswamy Pillai—No. 141 answered to-day. It is true that the original contained the words " just before the reorganisation of States ". As this was not the concern of this Government, the Speaker deleted the word " before " and suggested to Sri Ramaswamy Pillai in a separate letter that the question might be recast with the word " after " in the place of " before ". Since I have not received a reply thereto to the contrary, it was presumed that he accepted the alteration.